• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXVI OCTOBER, 1959 NUMBER 10

Aqueduct In First Stage Completed 20 Years Ago

Just a little over 20 years ago, on October 14, 1939 to be exact, ceremonies marking the completion of the main Colorado River Aqueduct, in its initial development, were held at the West Portal of the San Jacinto tunnel. An audience of more than 1000 people watched members of the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors place the last concrete in the transition structure.

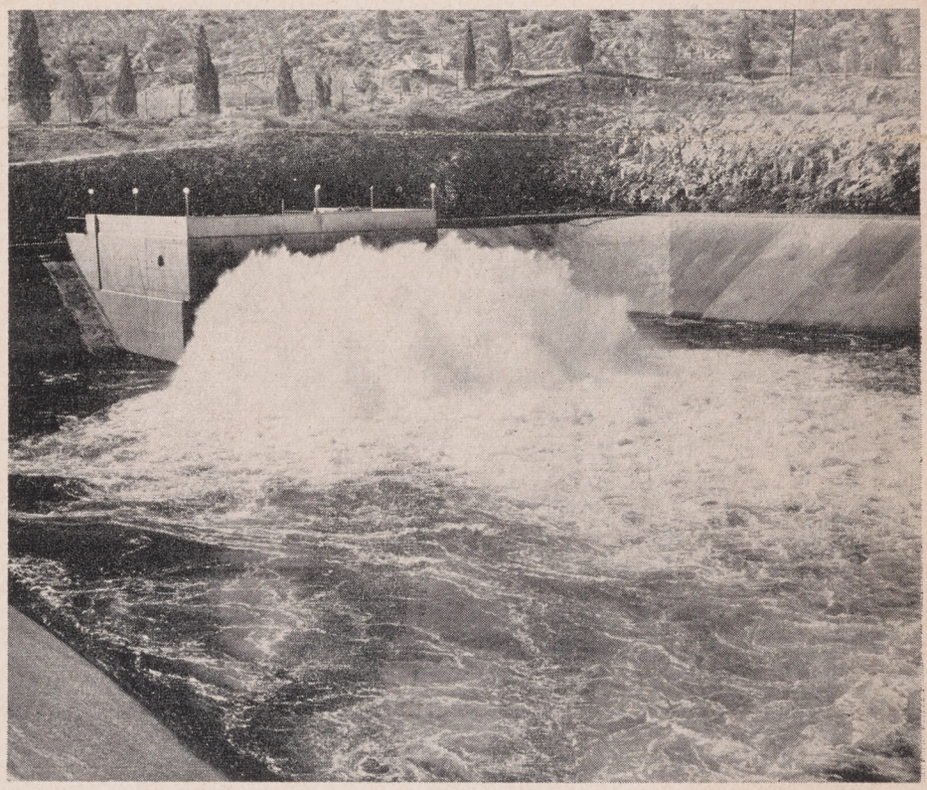
Much work remained to be done on the distribution system and it was not until June of 1941 that Colorado River water actually was delivered to District cities. However, the main Aqueduct from the Colorado River to the Cajalco reservoir, now Lake Mathews, was completed and the visitors at the October 14 ceremony had witnessed the end of the first big job.

Sixteen years earlier, almost to the day, a small group of men had packed their bedrolls and headed east across the desert to make the first of many surveys to determine the best route for the great water supply line. The early studies were conducted by the City of Los Angeles, which had previously planned and built the Owens River Aqueduct.

Other Southern California cities soon became interested in the project and in 1928 the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was created to finance, build and operate the world's largest and longest water supply line. The District took over the task of completing the surveys and by 1931 the present route had been selected out of more than 50 that were studied.

It was estimated that the construction of the Aqueduct would call for an investment of $220,000,000 and in 1931 a bond issue for that amount was submitted to the voters. It was the largest such bond issue ever submitted to a popular vote up to that time and it

(Continued on Page Two)



A view of the headworks at Lake Mathews, terminal reservoir of the Colorado River Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District. At this point, water is being released from the reservoir into a stilling basin to reduce the pressure. The water is then released into the District's distribution system to serve the coastal plain of Southern California. When this picture was taken the flow of water through the headworks was approximately 1000 cubic feet per second or about 600 million gallons a day.

Replenishment District Election November 17

Voters in the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts will go to the polls on November 17 to vote on the formation of a Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District and to name a governing board to handle its affairs.

The primary purpose of the Water Replenishment District will be to restore and maintain the depleted ground water basins in the southern part of Los Angeles County. The proposal has been endorsed by many Southland water officials, including Warren W. Butler, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District.

Writing in his column "Current Comment" in the Herald American newspapers, Mr. Butler stated:

"If you are interested at all in protecting and insuring the future of this area I suggest that you mark down on your calendar the important date of next November 17. While a great deal of statewide publicity and discussion has been centering around the proposed $1,750,000,000 bond election in California in November of 1960 next year to provide for a badly needed state water program, we in this southern area of Los

(Continued on Page Two)

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Colorado River Aqueduct

(Continued from Page One)

passed by a margin of nearly five to one although America was reeling under the impact of its greatest depression.

With the pioneering work out of the way it was time to turn a great dream into an even greater reality of concrete and steel and a huge construction army began to move onto the scene in 1932.

The job was to build 92 miles of tunnels, 63 miles of concrete-lined canals, 55 miles of concrete conduits, three dams, five pumping plants, 237 miles of high voltage transmission lines, and 150 miles of distribution lines made up of tunnels, concrete and steel pipelines and conduits. To make possible construction work in the desert it was necessary to build hundreds of miles of surfaced highways, telephone lines, power and water systems, and dozens of modern construction camps to house the thousands of men who were to live and work in the "uninhabitable" wasteland.

During the next seven years more than 35,000 men and women were to work on one of the greatest construction jobs ever attempted. That they succeeded in their mission became history on October 14, 1939, but the story was far from over. The Aqueduct builders established new records for speed and safety in an undertaking of such size. The Aqueduct was completed in its first development at a cost of $182,000,000, a savings of $38,000,000 under the estimated cost.

When the Colorado River Aqueduct was completed in its first development, most features were constructed to full capacity. It was decided to construct some features to partial capacity, deferring full capacity construction until a later date.

By 1952 it became evident that additional water would soon be needed in the District areas and the District embarked on a huge expansion program

(Continued on Page Three)

Former Director Crary Dies of Heart Ailment

Gordon B. Crary

Gordon B. Crary, who resigned from the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors on October 28, died of a heart ailment on Sunday, November 8. He had been one of the representatives of the City of Los Angeles on the District Board.

Mr. Crary was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and had lived in Southern California since 1896. He attended the University of Southern California and Stanford University. At the time of his death he was a senior partner in the stock brokerage firm of E. F. Hutton and Company.

On finishing school he entered the real estate and building business with his father and brother. He and his brother formed Crary Brothers Real Estate and Insurance Company and later founded A. H. Crary and Company, one of the first brokerage firms in Los Angeles.

Mr. Crary was a Board Member of Tidewater Oil Company, Mission Development Company and Brea Canon Oil Company. He was a member of the Los Angeles Country Club, the California Club, Stock Exchange Club, Balboa Bay Club and Newport Yacht Club. At the time of his retirement from the District Board he also announced his retirement as a member of the Los Angeles Airport Commission.

He is survived by his wife, Beatrice Baker Crary, of their Newport Beach home; two sons, Bruce and Gordon B., a sister, Mrs. Ora Crary Pearson Paul; and three grandsons.

Funeral services were conducted on Thursday, November 12, at the Church of the Recessional in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale.

For the RECORD

(Items from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed October, 1959, covering District operations for September, 1959, were printed in the September-October issue of the Aqueduct News.)

Replenishment District

(Continued from Page One)

Angeles county have a most important job to do this year to guarantee the future of the water supply that supports our property values, our commerce and industry and life as a whole in this area.

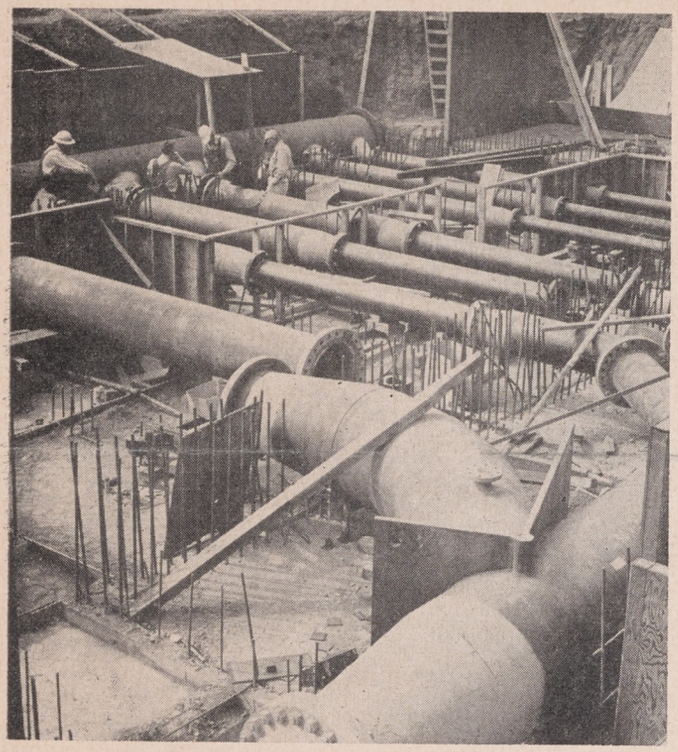
"It will be at least 11 and probably around 13 years before the construction work on the state water program can possibly make available to us additional water supplies from Northern California. In the meantime it is essential that we get our own house in order in this area waterwise. What is involved is the simple and well known principle that storage is a necessary accompaniment to an adequate water supply for a large urban area. The cheapest and best storage has been made available for us by nature.

"In fact the development of this area would not have been possible had not nature provided full in advance for us vast underground storage basins. But we have been drawing on this exhaustible natural resource with very little thought for the future. To put it simply, we have been drawing this water out of the ground twice as fast as nature, in this area of inadequate rainfall to support a vast population, has been putting it back in. That this can't go on forever is a most obvious fact.

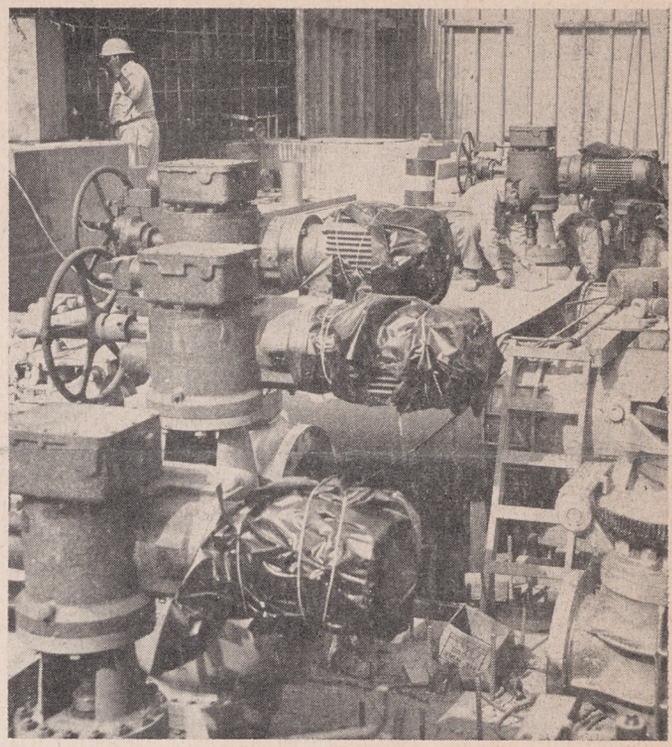
"True we have made available a supplementary supply from the Colorado River but for complex legal and economic reasons we have not used this supply as adequately as we should. The Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District is the simplest and most direct way to make sure that this supplementary supply will be used and at the same time insure that the necessary underground storage reserves are not further depleted and will be gradually restored to a safe and economic level.

"When we do get an additional supplementary water supply from the north the operation of this underground storage system will be even more essential as the peaking problem will be even greater then. With the population of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area increasing at the rate of 1000 a day we must meet these problems. That's the reason to remember next November 17 as an extremely important day."

PRESSURE CONTROL STRUCTURES BEING BUILT ON LOWER FEEDER



Shown above is a portion of one of three pressure control structures now under construction on the Lower Feeder of the District's distribution system. This structure also will serve as an interconnection between the Lower Feeder and the Orange County Feeder. It is located on Deodara Street near Brea.



A view of some of the motor-operated valves in the San Gabriel River pressure control structure located in the City of Norwalk in Los Angeles County. This structure is also on the Lower Feeder. The work of constructing the pressure control structures is being performed by Southern Engineering and Construction Co., Inc.

Colorado River Aqueduct

(Continued from Page Two)

calling for an investment of more than $200 million, to bring the Aqueduct to its full planned delivery capacity of more than one billion gallons of water a day.

The work to be performed under the expansion program fell into six general categories: (1) The installation of six additional pumps in each of the five pumping plants to bring the number of pumps in each plant to nine; (2) The construction of 22 miles of siphons on the Aqueduct to increase the capacity from 800 to 1800 cubic feet per second; (3) The construction of more than 100 miles of additional pipelines and tunnels on the distribution system; (4) Construction of Garvey Reservoir; (5) The enlargement of Lake Mathews from 107,000 to 182,000 acre-feet; (6) The construction of additional filtering faciltiies at the F. E. Weymouth Memorial Softening and Filtration Plant near La Verne.

This work has been going forward steadily since 1952 and much of it has been completed. Most features of the expansion work on the main Aqueduct are scheduled for completion in 1960 and the Aqueduct will then be able to deliver its full planned capacity of Colorado River water. It is interesting to note that, due to present-day costs, the expansion of the Aqueduct will call for an investment larger than the entire cost of the initial Aqueduct construction. Had the entire Aqueduct system been constructed at present-day costs, it is estimated that it would have required an investment of about one billion dollars.

The completion of the Aqueduct expansion program will write finis to another chapter in the District's history but it is not the end of the story.

The Metropolitan Water District is looking ahead to the day when water from Northern California will be delivered to Southern California. In December of 1952 the District's Board of Directors adopted the following policy:

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is prepared, with its existing governmental powers and its present and projected distribution facilities, to provide its service area with adequate supplies of water to meet expanding and increasing needs in the years ahead. The District is now providing its service area with a supplemental water supply from the Colorado River. When and as additional water resources are required to meet increasing needs for domestic, industrial and municipal water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will be prepared to deliver such supplies.

"Taxpayers and water users residing within the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California already have obligated themselves for the construction of an adequate supply and distribution system. . . . . This system has been designed and constructed in a manner that permits orderly and economic extensions and enlargements to deliver the District's full share of Colorado River water as well as water from other sources as required in the years ahead. Establishment of overlapping and paralleling governmental authorities and water distribution facilities to service Southern California areas would place a wasteful and unnecessary burden upon all of the people of California, particularly the residents of Southern California."

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Hunter Carper, who retired from the District on October 18 after 20 years of service, is presented with a Bulova wrist watch by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer on behalf of Hunter's many District friends. He also received a gift certificate. Looking on is his wife, Johanna, who was presented with a corsage at Hunter's retirement party at the Softening and Filtration Plant on October 16. At the time of his retirement, Hunter was working in the laboratory preparing equipment and materials for the chemists.

Ethel Lockhart, District Right-Of-Way Agent, holds the distinction of being the only woman member of the 750-member Los Angeles Chapter No. 1 of the American Right-Of-Way Association. On October 29 she served as a panel member at an all-day seminar of the Association in the Beverly-Hilton Hotel and participated in answering questions relating to problems arising during right-of-way negotiations. The 25-year-old Los Angeles Chapter was the founding chapter of the Association which now has 30 chapters.

* * *

The ladies at Gene Village jumped the gun on Halloween and held their party on October 28 in the Recreation Hall. Highlight of the evening was a hat contest when the ladies modeled their own original creations. Prizes were awarded to Clorine Rush for the funniest hat, Dorothy Ayers for the most original and Mary Helen Clark for the most artistic. Seventeen ladies attended and enjoyed games, pumpkin pie, ice cream and coffee. Hostesses were Mary Nell Shields and Janet Murphy.

* * *

Plans for the District's annual Christmas party are now under way. The party will be held on December 19 at the Pomona Valley Country Club and all District employees are invited.

Otto Wittman, Engineer, became a grandfather on September 6 when a baby boy was born to Otto's son, Lloyd, and daughter-in-law, Gertrude. The baby weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and has been named David Lloyd. Lloyd is an E/5 in the Military Police and is stationed at Fort Ritchie in Maryland. Otto is back on the job after an illness which incapacitated him for two months.

* * *

Ted Shill, Sr., Maintenance Mechanic at Gene Village, and his wife, Lillian, welcomed a baby girl at Wickenburg Community Hospital on October 29. The young lady weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and has been named Natalie Ruth.

* * *

Rufus Fee, Public Relations Representative, is seriously ill at Victory Hospital in North Hollywood. He is not allowed visitors at the present time but hopes that the restriction will be lifted soon so he can see and talk to his many District friends.

* * *

Burt Brehaut, Zeolite Operator at the Softening and Filtration Plant, and his wife, Mary, became parents for the fifth time on October 29 when a baby boy arrived at Pomona Valley Hospital. The baby weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and has been named Daniel Thomas.

It won't be many years until these three District cuties will be causing palpitations of the heart among the young blades in the neighborhood of Gene Village. Left to right are Jackie Faulhaber, 4, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Faulhaber, Phyllis King, 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sewell J. King, and Sherrie Louise Faulhaber, 5, Jackie's sister.